



**REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE COOPER**

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT



**REPRESENTATIVE
BRIAN SULLIVAN**

Dear Neighbor,

The 2003 Legislative Session promises to be one of the toughest in decades. A huge budget shortfall, exasperating traffic gridlock, and spiraling health care costs will present us with some tremendous challenges in the next few months. These challenges, however, also provide us with opportunities.

The greatest opportunity before us with our tight budget constraints is to continue our work on streamlining state government to better serve the public. In recent years, we have made a great deal of progress in this area. Still, accountability starts over every day.

We're committed to creating a leaner, more efficient state government that fully invests in education, health care, and human services, but also lives within its means. And as we do this, we'd like some help from you. On the back of this newsletter is a tear-off piece for you to provide your ideas for improving state government. We look forward to hearing from you!

Always feel free to contact us with your comments about any of the important issues facing our state. And thank you for giving us the opportunity to represent you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

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- BUILDING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
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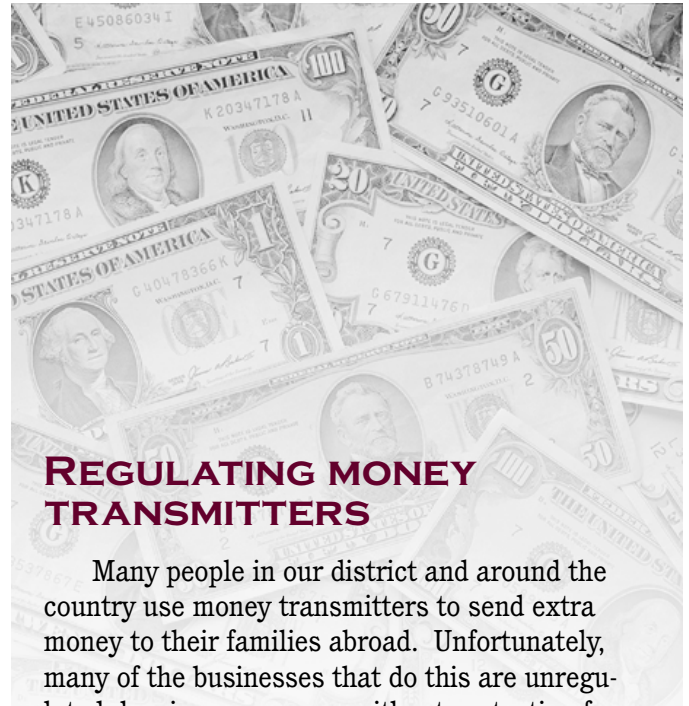
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE COOPER

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

NEW MEASURE TO PROHIBIT CREDIT SCORING BECOMES LAW

In recent years insurance companies began using credit scores to deny people coverage for life, auto, homeowner's and other types of insurance. This unfair practice has been driving up insurance premiums for good people and sometimes completely cutting them off of their insurance plans.

To address this practice, I sponsored legislation that would prohibit insurance companies from using credit scores to cancel insurance policies. I'm pleased to say that this legislation is now making a difference in consumers' lives after becoming law at the beginning of January.



REGULATING MONEY TRANSMITTERS

Many people in our district and around the country use money transmitters to send extra money to their families abroad. Unfortunately, many of the businesses that do this are unregulated- leaving consumers without protection from dishonest transmitters or when mistakes occur. This session we're going to work to pass legislation that heightens the regulation of these businesses, but which doesn't take a big bite out of the hard-earned money that many people are sending back to their families.

MORE GREAT WORK BY THE NEAH BAY TUGBOAT

I've been a strong advocate for keeping the Neah Bay Tugboat running to protect our shorelines, fish, sea birds and sea mammals from dangerous oil spills and other environmental disasters. I'm pleased to say that our state's investment in the tug is paying off. Since 1999, the tug has assisted with 22 incidents. As recently as January 19, the tug towed a disabled fish-processing boat- the Sea Freeze Alaska- to Port Angeles, preventing another serious environmental accident. This session we'll have to fight once again for funding, but after the recent oil spill in Spain it is my hope that we know well enough the urgency of keeping the tug in operation.



The rescue tug, Barbara Foss, prevented an environmental calamity in November 2001 when it brought the Atigun Pass, an oil tanker, under control after drifting for three and a half days off the Washington coast.

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT

PASSING A BUDGET THAT PROTECTS EDUCATION

The governor has unveiled a proposed budget that contains deep cuts to education, health care and social services. If these cuts are enacted, they will have a significant impact on teachers and students, the health of our citizens, and the economic security of many people across our state. Fortunately, the governor's budget is merely a starting point for negotiations. While the \$2.1 billion budget deficit will require us to make some difficult cuts, we will not abandon our commitment to building a world-class education system. And we will look for innovative ways to continue health coverage and social services for families in our state who need these services the most.



TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNTABILITY LEADS OFF

The first issue on our transportation agenda this session is to pass a package of accountability reforms that will ensure that our transportation dollars are being spent wisely. As of this writing, the three accountability measures – **House Bills 1120, 1121 and 1122** – are moving rapidly through the legislative process. Rep. Cooper has also been looking at other transportation efficiencies that will save taxpayers money by going after fuel tax cheats and ensuring that oil companies pay the state their share of the gas tax in a timely manner.

The resounding defeat of **R-51** will not make our traffic gridlock go away. We are committed to building an accountable and efficient transportation system that delivers people and goods to their destinations on time – our state's economy depends on it.



TACKLING RISING HEALTH CARE EXPENSES FOR SENIORS – AND DOCTORS

The recent news that the Everett and Medallia Clinics have stopped admitting Medicaid patients is a jolt to our community and further demonstrates a health care system in crisis. That's why in December, Rep. Sullivan and local physicians convened a forum for doctors and legislators to discuss many of the critical health care issues facing us. At the forum, more than 50 doctors – including some in danger of closing down their clinics – shared their concerns and suggestions on how to address the problems of low Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates for physicians, rising medical malpractice insurance costs, and a range of other forces impacting our health care system. This session we will be looking at ways to keep doctors in our community and around the state in business while ensuring that patients continue to receive high-quality, affordable health care.

The skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs is another issue we're working hard to address this session. Prescription drugs are devastating the budgets of seniors and their families, as well as driving up our state's costs for health care services. We support the prescription drug legislation currently moving through the House to approve the use of less-expensive generic drugs that are equally effective for individuals and families on state-sponsored health plans.

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN SULLIVAN

INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

I've long been an advocate for the use of renewable and clean energy sources that both reduce pollution and generate economic development opportunities for our state. I'm especially interested in biodiesel, a clean-burning fuel made from soybeans, oilseed crops, and recycled vegetable oil and restaurant grease that runs in any diesel engine without engine modifications. Biodiesel has significantly fewer harmful emissions than regular diesel fuel, reducing our health risks from air pollution and helping to slow global warming. And with the current uncertainty in the Middle East it is even more important that we look for new domestic sources of renewable energy to help our country become more energy-independent.

Biodiesel development also presents a tremendous opportunity for economic growth and job creation in our state. With fertile ground in eastern Washington for growing the oilseed crops used to make biodiesel, our state could become one of the leading producers of this renewable fuel.

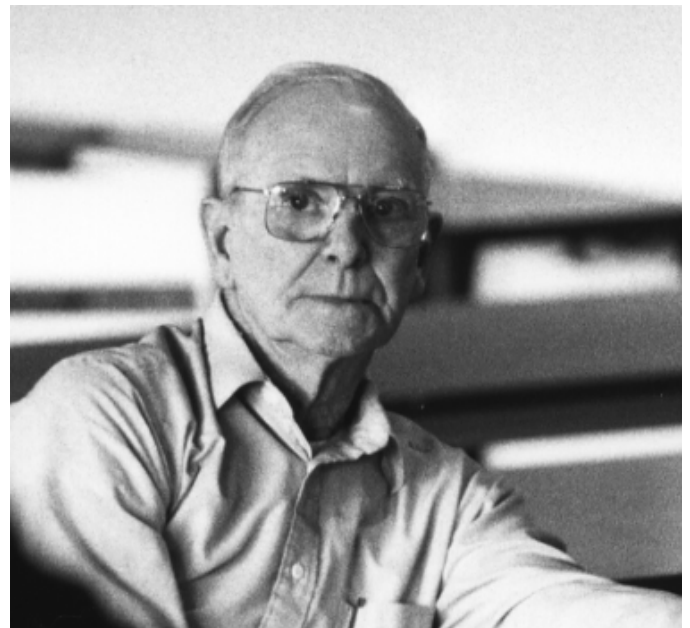


Since last session I've been working on a package of bills (**House Bills 1240-1243**) to encourage the use of biodiesel in the state's fleet of vehicles and provide incentives for the production and sale of biodiesel and other clean-burning fuels. I'll be working hard to pass these measures this session in order to boost our economy, protect our environment, and increase our country's energy independence.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM FRAUD

TOUGHENING PENALTIES ON THOSE WHO DEFRAUD SENIORS

I've heard too many stories about seniors being victimized by con artists, losing their savings and their sense of security. To address this problem, the chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee, Rep. Al O'Brien and I put together and introduced **HB 1215**, legislation that toughens penalties against those who defraud seniors by making it possible for law enforcement agencies to collect an offender's assets. This proposal will ensure that the person who commits fraud may not keep the rewards of his or her criminal activity.



REGULATING SWEEPSTAKES

We've all received those obnoxious notices in the mail saying, "You've just won \$1 million!," or "You've just won a brand new car... Now just send us \$500 and we'll deliver your new car to your doorstep." These misleading sweepstakes mailers are filling more mailboxes every day with misinformation that often tricks consumers into sending cash or ordering products or other gimmicks. That's why I'm developing legislation that regulates these sweepstakes and protects consumers. If you've fallen victim to one of these sweepstakes, please let us know so we can make sure that this doesn't happen to anyone else.

Dear Rep. Cooper and Rep. Sullivan:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Phone

Email _____

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Check here if you'd like to receive legislative updates from us by e-mail.

State Representatives
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Brian Sullivan
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Please place stamp here

A REPORT TO THE 21ST DISTRICT



The new Mukilteo Lighthouse Park


MUKILTEO STATE PARK UNDER LOCAL CONTROL

For years we've been working to ensure that the Mukilteo State Park be placed in local hands. With recent budget cuts in our state parks system this need has become even more urgent in the last few years. And we're happy to say that we've finally made it happen—the park is now under the control of the city of Mukilteo.

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